

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] The wheel 14 of wheel assembly 12 is made of aluminum, magnesium, steel, or other material conventionally used for manufacturing vehicle wheels. The cladding (not shown) may be bonded to the wheel 14 via an adhesive. The cladding is injection molded of a polymeric material, such as a combination of polycarbonate and ABS. The polycarbonate to ABS ratio ranges from about 60% to about 70% polycarbonate and about 40% to about 30% ABS, respectively. Other polymeric materials or composite polymeric materials may be also used. An outer decorative surface of the cladding is covered with a bright (highly reflective) or satin finished metal plating such as chrome as described in U.S. Patent Application No. 09/707,866, filed November 7, 2000 and entitled METHOD AND COMPOSITION FOR METALLIC FINISHES, now U.S. Patent No. 6,749,946, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

The outer surface 16 of wheel 14 and the outer surface of the cladding can also be painted, textured or otherwise finished for a particularly desired appearance. The hub aperture 18 of the wheel 14 defines an interior or aperture wall 32. A locking ring 36 extends circumferentially about the hub aperture 18 and inwardly from the aperture wall 32.